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Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review the safety tips on page 5. Take a map, warm clothes, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are

going. You are on your own!
Road work and trail reconstruction is affecting vehicle and foot traffic on weekdays in the area near the Sherman Tree and across from the Big Trees Trail. Traffic may be delayed up to one hour through November. The parking area and restrooms remain open. Page 8 has details. Thanks for your patience!

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: Park two miles (3.2km) north of Giant Forest Museum (a new parking area opens next year). A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. A huge sequoia cross-section nearby illustrates the connection between sequoias and fire.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum and follow the wheelchair-accessible trail from there. Allow 1 hour round trip.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Excellent for first-time visitors. Allow 1-2 hours.

CRYSTAL CAVE: See page 3.

ALONG THE MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), narrow, dead-end road begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway & explores the southwest portion of the grove. Trailers and RVs are strongly discouraged. It closes with the first snow to become a ski trail.

Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot/91 m elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide & the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through (a bypass is available for larger vehicles). The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, & the High Sierra Trail, which runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet /4417 m; highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive your car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to this old tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH VALLEY: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs of Tokopah Canyon. Start in Lodgepole Campground; 500 foot/152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



MINERAL KING

The winding, steep, narrow road to this valley is open late May through October 31 (weather permitting). It ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails, too numerous to list here, lead up to higher country and excellent hiking. Ask a ranger for information about the area. Drinking water systems are turned off as of October 13.

THE FOOTHILLS

The lower elevations host more different kinds of plants and animals than the rest of the park. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.



HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA:

Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lives. A 1/4-mile trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful: Drownings have occurred here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. Watch for the trail along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Park at Hospital Rock and walk the road to Buckeye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 & cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over one mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparral to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground and turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5km) beyond that.

SOUTH FORK

Tiny South Fork Campground lies at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5 mile (8.3km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.